

## Claims

[c1]

1. A method for an isolated computer to retrieve and display a computer file comprising the steps of: a) encoding a human readable data string comprising a file name into a machine readable symbol; b) rendering said machine readable symbol within a data carrier; c) transferring an input data string from said machine readable symbol with a computer input device coupled to said computer; d) parsing said input data string to determine said file name; and e) utilizing said file name to request the named computer file, by assembling a computer file transfer request expression (string) comprising said file name, and transmitting said computer file transfer request expression to a local server on the computer; f) said local server receiving said computer file transfer request expression and g) said local server transmitting a computer file to said computer in response thereto; and h) said computer displaying said computer file.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said computer is connected to the Internet, and wherein said request expression is directed towards a target server computer in communication with the Internet.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said computer is connected to an intranet, and wherein said request expression is directed towards a target server computer on the afore-mentioned intranet.

4. The method of claim 2 wherein said request expression includes a uniform resource locator (URL) for specifying a target server in communication with the Internet.

5. The method of claim 3 wherein said request expression includes a network address for specifying a target server on the intranet.

6. A method for an isolated computer to retrieve and display a computer file comprising the steps of: a) encoding a representation of a characteristic digital sample of a file into a machine readable symbol; b) rendering said machine readable symbol within a data carrier; c) transferring an input data string from said machine readable symbol with a computer input device coupled to said computer; d) parsing said input data string to determine said characteristic digital sample; and e) utilizing said characteristic digital

sample to request the represented computer file, by assembling a computer file transfer request expression (string) comprising said characteristic digital sample, and transmitting said computer file transfer request expression to a local server on the computer; f) said local server receiving said computer file transfer request expression and g) said local server transmitting a computer file to said computer in response thereto; and h) said computer displaying said computer file.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein said computer is connected to the Internet, and wherein said request expression is directed towards a target server computer in communication with the Internet.

8. The method of claim 6 wherein said computer is connected to an intranet, and wherein said request expression is directed towards a target server computer on the afore-mentioned intranet.

9. The method of claim 7 wherein said request expression includes a uniform resource locator (URL) for specifying a target server in communication with the Internet.

10. The method of claim 8 wherein said request expression includes a network address for specifying a target server on the intranet.